

**From:** [Eoc, Epahq](#)  
**To:** [Eoc, Epahq](#)  
**Subject:** EOC Spot Report Update# 2: Region 6, KMCO Explosion and Fire, Crosby, TX (NRC# 1251683 and # 1241698)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019 5:20:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.emz](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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## **EOC Spot Report **Update# 2**: Region 6, KMCO Explosion and Fire, Crosby, TX (NRC# 1251683 and # 1241698)**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Report as of **April 3, 2019 1700 EDT****

**Overview:** On April 2, 2019, Region 6 was notified about a fire and explosion at the KMCO Crosby, Texas chemical facility. The NRC report states the fire started around 1200 CST. KMCO is a specialty chemical manufacturer that produces custom chemical blends for various customers. Their Risk Management Plan (RMP) indicates they have several RMP regulated substances, some flammables and toxics including ethyl chloride, ethylene oxide, sulfur dioxide, formaldehyde, ammonia, propylene oxide, and isobutylene (2-methylpropene). News outlets reported that isobutylene started the explosion/fire, and that employees had difficulty evacuating because exit gates were locked. The media also reported two injuries and one death. Four schools in the area were locked down and established shelter in place. As of 1930 on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, local officials lifted the shelter in place issued after the explosion. The fire was reported out at approximately 1600 CST; As of April 3, 2019, the KMCO facility is shutdown. KMCO is currently in the process of inspecting and securing tankage. KMCO is currently working on collecting firefighting water runoff both on-site (facility property) and off-site (drainage ditch along Crosby-Dayton Rd) and securing those materials in frac tanks.

**State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:** Crosby Fire Department and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) responded. Two Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) personnel also reported to the site. EPA, TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Service, and KMCO's contractor did roving air monitoring with no detections for VOCs, although periodic odors have been observed in the area. As of April 3, 2019, no response issues have been reported and cleanup activities are moving forward.

**EPA Actions:** Two Region 6 OSCs are onsite. ASPECT was activated and conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous

materials or contaminants at the KMCO Inc. in Crosby, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the EPA Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGLs) and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Minimal Risk Levels (MRL). The ASPECT detected ammonia at approximately 1 ppm which less than the AEGL-1 level of 30 ppm and the acute ATSDR MRL of 1.7 ppm. The AEGL-1 is intended for exposure less than 8 hours and the acute MRL is intended for exposure less than 14 days. In addition, ASPECT had a single detect of isobutylene.

EPA conducted handheld air monitoring in the surrounding community and schools. The air monitoring teams did not detect any readings above background.

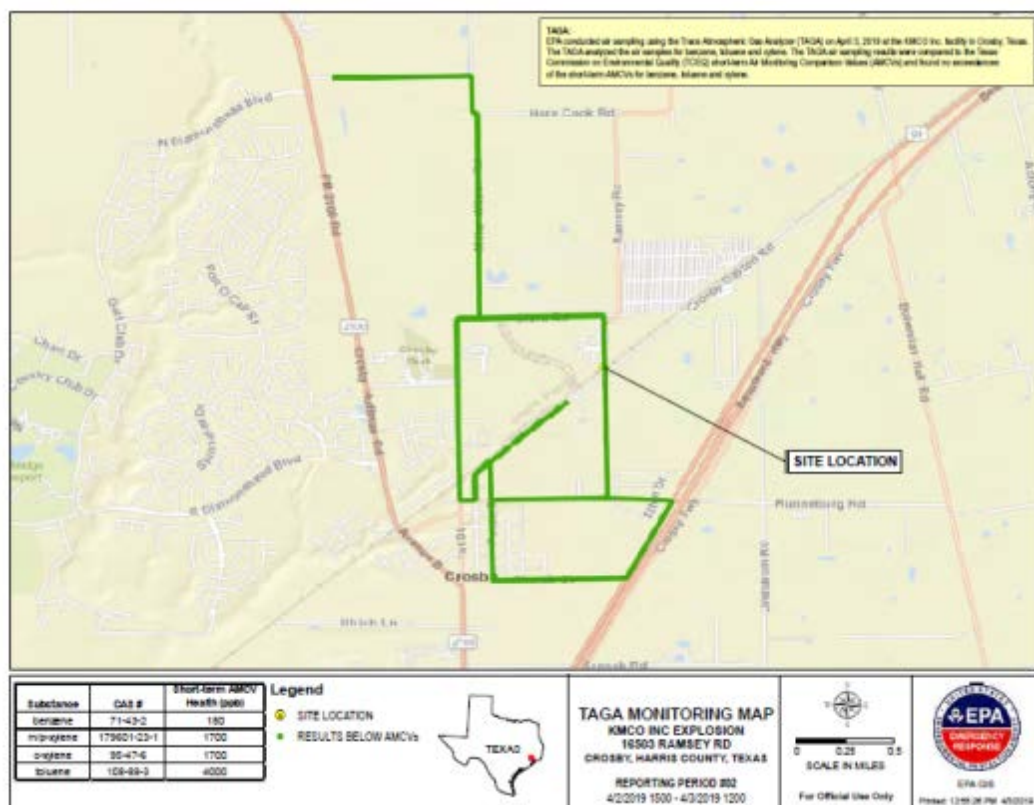
The Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) mobile laboratory began mobile monitoring in the surrounding area and has not detected any readings above the short term TCEQ Air monitoring comparison values (AMCVs).

On April 3, 2019, TAGA and ASPECT completed the final runs and have moved back to ITC Fire.

The ASPECT aircraft conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the KMCO Inc. in Crosby, Texas on April 3, 2019 from 9:00 am to 9:40 am. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of TCEQ short-term AMCVs and found no exceedances. No chemicals were detected by the ASPECT.

EPA conducted handheld air monitoring at the facility from April 2, 2019 at 2:15 pm to April 3, 2019. No results above the detection limit have been observed.

EPA conducted air sampling using the TAGA on April 3, 2019. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the TCEQ short-term AMCVs and found no exceedances for benzene, toluene and xylene.



**Media Interest:** High

<https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Crosby-chemical-fire-to-be-investigated-by-U-S-13737843.php>

<https://abc13.com/deadly-kmco-chemical-plant-fire-in-crosby/5230466/>

<https://www.click2houston.com/news/heres-what-we-know-about-kmco-in-crosby>

**The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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# TARGET SHEET

**SITE NAME:** ITC TANK FIRE

**CERCLIS I.D.:** TXN000622079

**TITLE:** IMAGE002.EMZ

**DATE:** 01/01/2525

**NO. OF PGS. THIS TARGET SHEET REPLACES:** UNKNOWN

**SDMS #:** 9955034 **RELATED #:** 9954741

**CONFIDENTIAL ?** ☐ **MISSING PAGES ?** ☐

**ALTERN. MEDIA ?** ☒ **CROSS REFERENCE ?** ☐

**LAB DOCUMENT ?** ☐ **LAB NAME:**

**ASC./BOX #:**

**CASE #:**  **SDG #:**

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